

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 DRC-01

OIC-04 /177 W

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R 111700Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5080

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1372

EO 11652 XGDS

TAGS: EAGR/ETRD/EC/EI

SUBJ: PROPOSED CAP FOR SOYBEANS

REF: A. STATE 194296 B. DUBLIN 1355

1. AT WORKING LUNCH OCT 10, WE MADE ARGUMENTS AGAINST SOYBEAN CAP TO EAMONN GALLAGHER, ASST SEC IN CHARGE OF FONOFF ECONOMIC DIV (PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL A), POINTING OUT THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN SOYBEAN PRICES WOULD BE VERY MUCH TO DISADVANTAGE OF IMPORTANT IRISH PIG AND POULTRY PRODUCTION.

2. GALLAGHER WAS WELL BRIEFED, AS WE HAD ALSO TOUCHED BRIEFLY
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ON SUBJECT LAST WEEK (REFTEL B). AFTER HEARING OUR POINTS,

GALLAGHER SAID THAT HE TOO WAS "SKEPTICAL" ABOUT WISDOM OF FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR SOYBEAN CAP. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT THINK PROPOSAL WOULD GO FAR. IT WAS LARGELY A "DEFENSIVE" REACTION TO RECENT US EXPORT EMBARGO, WHICH HAD COME AS A SEVERE SHOCK TO EUROPEANS. EC NOW INTENDS US TO GET MESSAGE THAT WE CANNOT TURN THE TAP ON AND OFF AT OUR OWN WHIM IF WE WANT THE EUROPEANS TO DEPEND UPON US FOR THEIR SUPPLIES.

3. GALLAGHER ADDED THAT, AS TACTICAL MATTER, IRISH WOULD OBJECT TO ANY PROPOSAL FOR CAP ON A NEW PRODUCT UNTIL MUTTON/LAMB CAP HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED. MUTTON IS OF GREAT INTEREST TO IRELAND, AND EUROPEAN PARTNERS HAVE ALREADY CONCEDED IN PRINCIPLE EXTENSION OF THE CAP TO THIS PRODUCT. PROBLEM IS THAT THE FRENCH HAVE ACTUALLY INCREASED LEVIES ON IRISH MUTTON SINCE IRELAND JOINED EC. DUBLIN VIEWS THIS AS VIOLATION OF SEVERAL EC COMMITMENTS, AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WANTS TO BEGIN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST FRENCH. FONMIN IS RESTRAINING HIM.

4. GALLAGHER SAID THAT IRISH MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN CAP ON POTATOES AT SOMETIME IN FUTURE, BUT THEY WERE NOT NOW PUSHING THIS IDEA SERIOUSLY. (WE GATHER THAT IRISH SEE SOME HOPE OF GETTING CAP ON MUTTON BUT NOT ON POTATOES.)

5. WE ASKED IF GALLAGHER WAS SUGGESTING THAT IRISH WOULD SUPPORT SOYBEAN CAP IN RETURN FOR TRADE-OFF ON MUTTON. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT IRISH INTENTION AND WOULD NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW. IRISH WANTED CAP ON MUTTON FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS. HAVING ACHIEVED THIS, THEY WOULD EXAMINE ANY NEW PROPOSALS IN LIGHT OF IRISH INTERESTS.

6. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH LEADERS OF FARM ORGANIZATIONS, WHO HAVE STRONG INFLUENCE ON SUCH QUESTIONS. THEY ARE CLOSELY WATCHING ATTITUDES OF PORK AND BROILER PRODUCERS IN DENMARK AND HOLLAND, WHO ARE APPARENTLY OPPOSED TO SOYBEAN CAP.

7. COMMENT: THIS WAS ENCOURAGING CONTRAST TO OUR TALK WITH GALLAGHER LAST WEEK, WHEN HE WAS NOT WILLING DISCUSS IRISH INTERESTS SEPARATELY FROM THOSE OF OTHER EC COUNTRIES.
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